

REMARKS

The prosecution of this application is continued and claim 6 is canceled. The specification and claims are amended to conform them to their as amended state in the parent application. Claims 1-6, 9-12, 14-19, 21 and 24 were previously elected. The remaining claims, while pending, are directed to a non-elected species. Consideration of recapture of the non-elected claims can be deferred until allowable subject matter is found, which may include the allowance of a generic claim.

Applicant intends to file another amendment to the claims making changes to other claims prior to consideration by the Examiner. Should the Examiner take this case for consideration before receiving that amendment, he is requested to call the undersigned attorney of record to ascertain the status of the case.

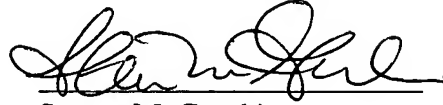
The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
Continuation of Application No.: 09/823,765

Attorney Docket No.: A8613

overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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WASHINGTON OFFICE



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

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